



Ancient Greece Alive: A Minoan Odyssey

An expert-led 10-day cultural tour to **Athens
Crete and Santorini** with Laura and Francois Roy

September 2 – September 11, 2024

FIRST IN SERVICE



ANCIENT GREECE ALIVE! A MINOAN ODYSSEY

An Exquisite, Expert-Led Tour of Athens, Crete and Santorini
with Laura Ranieri Roy and Francois Roy

Monday, September 2 - Wed, September 11, 2024.

\$5960 USD. PP Twin \$1745 USD. Single Supp.

Very Limited Spaces.

Embark on a Minoan odyssey with us... An enchanting, culture, cuisine and history-focused 10-day journey through Greece's most dreamy and rich destinations: Magnificent Athens, Magical Crete and Spectacular Santorini.

This deluxe, fully immersive small group tour will be led by ancient civilizations experts and storytellers Laura Ranieri Roy and Francois Roy, along with top local Greek guides.

Culinary adventures, local culture immersions, breathtaking natural scenery, mountain vistas, azure seas, luxury accommodation, special museums, and, of course, all the most fascinating historical sites await. We have so many unique and enriched adventures in store during this exclusive culture and history trip of a lifetime.

Grab your seat on a join a one-of-a-kind Odyssey to the land of Zeus, Athena and the Minotaur:

- ❖ *Wander the landmarks of historic Athens, Crete and Santorini*
- ❖ *Be vibrantly led by Laura Ranieri Roy and Francois Roy & local Greek history expert*
- ❖ *Special dining and culinary experiences – picturesque tavernas, wine tastings – and a private cooking lesson by a top Cretan chef in the fabled white mountains*
- ❖ *Visit the Minoan palaces of Knossos, Phaistos, and Akrotiri*
- ❖ *Special experiences – and unexpected surprises*
- ❖ *Stay at a handpicked selection of premium accommodations*



HOTELS INCLUDED IN THE OFFER

<u>DATES</u>	DESTINATION	NIGHTS	HOTEL	ROOM TYPE	MEAL
02-05 SEPTEMBER 2024	ATHENS	3	<u>ELECTRA PALACE 5*</u>	<u>PREMIUM GARDEN VIEW ROOMS</u>	BREAKFAST
05-07 SEPTEMBER 2024	CRETE CHANIA	2	<u>PORTO VENEZIANO 4*</u>	<u>CLASSIC DOUBLE SEA VIEW ROOMS</u>	BREAKFAST
07-08 SEPTEMBER 2024	CRETE HERAKLION	1	<u>GALAXY HOTEL 5*</u>	<u>SUPERIOR DOUBLE CITY VIEW ROOMS</u>	BREAKFAST
08-11 SEPTEMBER 2024	SANTORINI	3	<u>SECRET VIEW HOTEL 5*</u>	<u>POOL FRONT SEA VIEW ROOMS</u>	BREAKFAST

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 9 nights' accommodation in Athens, Crete & Santorini in above mentioned hotels on Bed and Breakfast basis
- Athens's airport assistant
- Private transfers in Athens – Airport to Hotel & Hotel to Airport
- Welcome Dinner at Electra Palace Hotel's Roof Garden with Acropolis View (3-course set menu including drinks and wine)
- Walking tour Acropolis and Acropolis Museum (skip-the-line tickets included) with English speaking guide, whispers and stop for lunch at Zonars
- Lunch at Zonars Restaurant (set menu including drinks)
- Walking Athens tour, visit Benaki museum (skip-the-line tickets included) with English speaking guide, whispers, enjoy the view from Lycabettus Cable car (skip-the-line tickets included) and stop for lunch at a local taverna.
- Lunch at Local Taverna Zorbas Restaurant (set menu including drinks)
- Air Tickets – economy class numbered air seat – from Athens to Chania – time to be advised – morning flight
- Private transfers in Chania – from airport to hotel & from hotel in Chania to hotel in Heraklion
- Evening Walking tour of Venetian harbor, Jewish quarter and ancient Cretan agora with English speaking guide.
- Dinner at Arismari Traditional Cretan Restaurant (set menu including drinks)
- Full day tour to Rethymno – Vamos – Chania, with private cooking class at Vamos Village with private vehicle & English speaking guide, lunch & drinks included.
- Full day tour to Phaistos Palace – Knossos Palace – Archeological Museum at Heraklion & Drop off at Hotel at Heraklion with private vehicle, English speaking guide, whispers, skip-the-line tickets
- Dinner at Ligo Kراسι Ligo Thalassa Fish Restaurant (set menu including drinks)

- Fast Ferry Tickets – platinum class numbered air seat – from Heraklion to Santorini 8.00-09.50am
- Private transfers in Santorini – Airport to Hotel & Hotel to Airport.
- Early afternoon visits to Villages of Megalochori, Firostefani, Fira town – with private vehicle , English speaking escort .
- Full day tour – All time classic Santorini to Akrotiri Excavations, Beaches, Villages, with private vehicle, English speaking guide, wine tasting, lunch, skip-the-line tickets.
- Morning 3 hours private cruise by traditional boat and volcano visit - with private vehicle, English speaking guide, skip-the-line tickets included.
- Sunset Cheers & Farewell Dine experience with wine tasting & dinner at Caldera View Restaurant & cocktail.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Air tickets for departure in Santorini
- Meals (unless stated otherwise)
- Visa Fees /Personal expenses/Porterage/Tips
- Hotel Taxes (paid on the spot 3€ or 4€ per room per night in 4*/5* Hotels accordingly)
- Nights transfers supplement (valid from 23:00 to 06:00)
- Any service not mentioned in the included services

Day 01 – September 2nd, 2024

Arrival in Athens



- Upon arrival at Athens airport, you will meet the Airport Assistant at Baggage Reclaim Area. He will be holding a sign with your name so you can recognize him.
- Meet your driver at the arrivals gate, who will drive you to your hotel.
- Check in at your Hotel Electra Palace 5*
- The rest of the day will be free at your leisure to discover the wonderful contemporary Metropolis of Athens.
- Afternoon at 7pm, meet at Electra Palace Roof Garden Restaurant with great Acropolis View for Welcome Dinner and Drinks.
- Overnight at Hotel Electra Palace 5*

Athens is the capital and largest city of Greece which dominates the Attica region with its recorded history spanning over 3,400 years and its earliest human presence starting somewhere between the 11th and 7th millennium BC.

Classical Athens was a powerful city-state that emerged in conjunction with the seagoing development of the port of Piraeus, which had been a distinct city prior to its 5th century BC incorporation with Athens. A center for the arts, learning and philosophy, home of Plato's Academy and Aristotle's Lyceum, it is widely referred to as the cradle of western civilization and the birthplace of democracy, largely because of its cultural and political impact on the European continent and the Romans. In modern times, Athens is a large cosmopolitan metropolis and central to economic, financial, industrial, maritime, political, and cultural life in Greece.

Day 02 – September 3rd, 2024

Private Walking Tour to Acropolis & the NEW Acropolis Museum

(5hrs Guided Tour & Lunch)

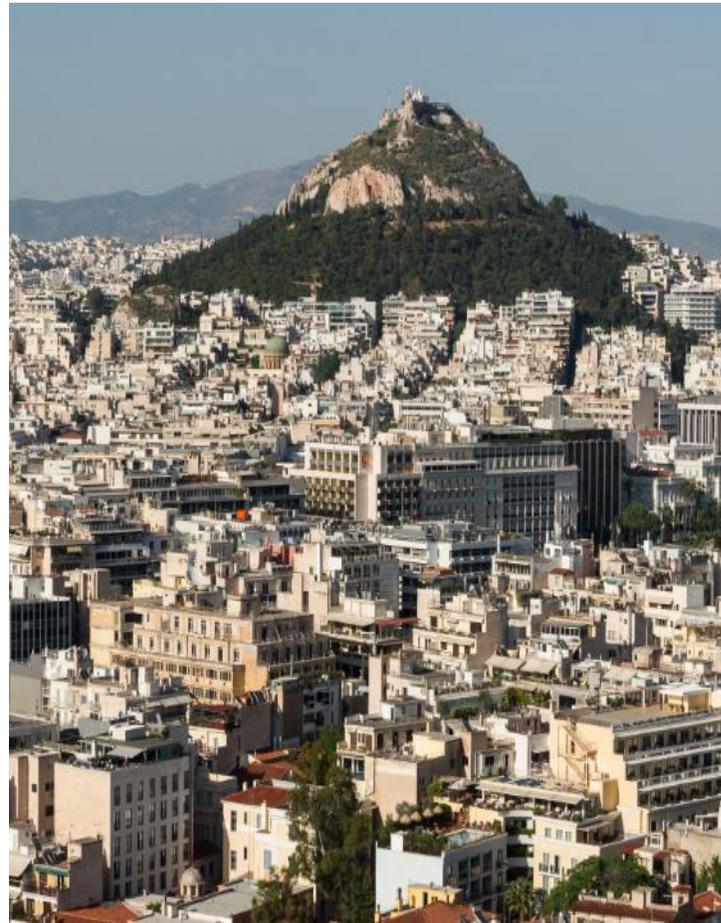


- After breakfast at your hotel, at approx. 7.45am, meet your guide at hotel's entrance and start your city tour in Athens.
- This tour gives you an opportunity to observe the striking contrasts that make Athens such a fascinating city.
- Your expert guide will take you to see the see the Prime Minister's residence (ex. Royal Palace) guarded by the Euzones in their colorful uniform, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Hadrian's Arch, the Parliament and the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, and the Constitution Square (Syntagma).
- On the Acropolis visit the Architectural Masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: The Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and finally "the harmony between material and spirit", the monument that "puts order in the mind", the Parthenon. Skip-the-line tickets & whispers are included.
- Continue and visit the place where at last the statues found their home and admire the wonders of the classical era: The new Acropolis museum. Skip-the-line tickets & whispers are included.
- After your guided tour to Acropolis Museum, your guide will show you to restaurant for lunch.
- Lunch at Dionysos Zonar's Restaurant – one of the oldest and most popular restaurants in Greece facing the Acropolis hill.
- Walk back to the hotel on your own or go shopping at Ermou Street
- Afternoon free at leisure.
- Overnight at Hotel Electra Palace 5*

Day 03 – September 4th, 2024

Athens Private City Tour by bus to National Gardens, Kolonaki Neighborhood, Lycabettus Hill & Plaka Neighborhood

(7-8hrs Guided Tour & Lunch)



- After breakfast at your hotel, at approx. 7.45am, meet your driver and guide at hotel's entrance and start your city tour in Athens.
- Depart the hotel by bus and stop for walking through the National Garden passing various archeological sites (Roman mosaics)
- The bus will then drop you to Kolonaki neighborhood for a small walking tour until you reach the cable car to Lycabettus Hill (approx. walking time 15-20 minutes)
- Ascend Lycabettus Hill by Cable Car for fabulous views across the city.
- After your guided tour at Lycabettus Hill, your driver will drop you to Plaka Traditional Neighborhood, where you will continue to walking tour with your guide
- Walking tour of Plaka finishing with Sandal maker of Athens (Melissinos)
- After your guided tour to Plaka Neighborhood, your guide will show you to restaurant for lunch.
- Lunch at Zorbas Traditional Restaurant – situated in the heart of Plaka (ancient town of Athens - in the neighborhood of the ancient Gods) and in the region Anafiotika.
- Remaining of the afternoon and evening at your leisure.
- Overnight at Hotel Electra Palace 5*

Day 04 – September 5th, 2024

Arrival in Crete – Chania

Evening Walking Tour to Venetian Harbor, Jewish quarter and ancient Cretan Agora & Dinner

(3hrs Guided tour)



- After breakfast at your hotel, meet up with you the driver at the Hotel's entrance, who will drive you to Athens International Airport to depart for Chania.
- Upon arrival at Chania's International Airport, you will meet your driver at the arrivals gate, who will drive you to your hotel.
- Check in at your hotel – Porto Veneciano 4*
- In the evening approx. 4pm, meet with your guide at the hotel's entrance to start your walking tour.
- Your walking tour of Chania Old Town begins in the Venetian Harbour whose multicoloured buildings and collection of waterfront tavernas, cafes and bars create a special atmosphere at any time of day.
- Continue your walking tour to the Jewish quarter of Chania is found behind the harbour and is demarcated by Zampeliou, Portou and Halidon streets. Prominent Jewish families concentrated on Kondilaki Street, which is also the location of the Kehal Hayyim, the sole surviving synagogue on Crete.
- Final stop - The Municipal Market of Chania is commonly known as the "Agora". It was built between 1909 and 1913 and modelled on the covered market of Marseilles. It was built on the site of a bastion of the Venetian fortification wall. This was dismantled to fill in the moat and created a space to build the market on. It is still an active market and houses shops selling vegetables, fish, meat, herbs and spices, Cretan products such as cheeses, olives, raki and more.
- Dinner at Arismari Local Cretan Restaurant located at the old Chania harbor
- Overnight at Hotel Porto Veneciano 4*

Day 05 – September 6th, 2024

Full Day Tour by bus: Chania - Rethymno – Vamos Village - Chania

(8hrs Guided tour, Cooking Class & Lunch)



- After your breakfast meet your driver and guide at the Hotel's entrance.
- Leave Chania and reach Vamos traditional village.
- Guests prepare local recipes of stuffed vine leaves, rye bread ntakos, yogurt with garlic tzatziki and cheese pies sarikopites. You will get the respective recipes and you will taste the cooked food.
- This interactive activity is taking place in a unique traditional pre-fabricated Cretan Village. As a family-run business it is implemented with great passion and love for Cretan tradition. Today's goal is to introduce to visitors the Cretan tradition, the customs and habits of the region, the architecture and the values of Cretan people. The guests escape from present and travel back to the past as they have the chance to stroll to its narrow streets and inspect the old time life & professions.
- After the lovely lunch we will visit the beautiful Venetian harbor village of Rethymno, one of the most picturesque places in Greece. Wander the beautiful port and explore its cobblestone pathways.
- At the end return to hotel and enjoy the rest of your night.
- Overnight at Hotel Porto Veneciano 4*

Day 06 - September 7th, 2024

Full Day Tour: Chania – Phaistos Palace – Knossos Palace – Heraklion (8hrs Guided tour)



- Early breakfast and checkout 7.00-7:30am
- Meet up with the driver and guide to depart for Heraklion.
- On your way to Heraklion , you will stop for a Guided visit to Phaistos Palace with your guide.
- Phaistos was one of the most important palatial centres of Minoan civilization, and the most wealthy and powerful city in Southern Crete. It was inhabited from the Neolithic period until the foundation and development of the Minoan palaces.
- After your guided tour, transfer to Heraklion.
- Check in at Hotel Galaxy 5*
- Free time for lunch
- At approx. 4pm meet your driver at your hotel to head to Knossos Palace for a guided tour.
- The site was a major center of the Minoan civilization and is known for its association with the Greek myth of Theseus and the minotaur. It is located on the outskirts of Heraklion.
- Brief stop at the archaeological museum of Knossos.
- Transfer back to Heraklion for dinner
- Dinner at Ligo Krasi Ligo Thalassa – Fish restaurant
- Over night at Hotel Galaxy 5*

Day 7 – September 8th, 2024

Heraklion to Santorini

Early afternoon tour , Traditional Villages :

Firostefani, Megalochori , Fira town

(4hrs tour)

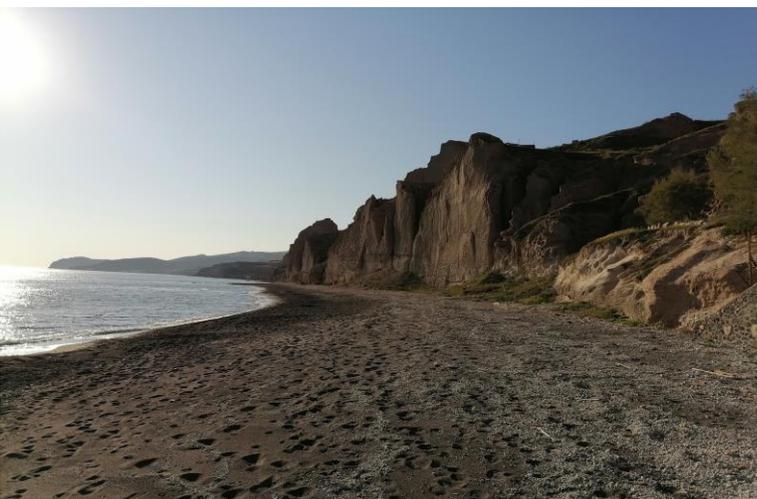


- Early breakfast at your hotel and transfer to Heraklion Port for your fast ferry to Santorini.
- Fast ferry Heraklion – Santorini 8:00-9:50AM.
- Meet your driver at arrivals gate in Santorini port and Transfer to your Hotel
- Check in to your Hotels Secret View 5* in Oia
- Free leisure day at Oia Village and lunch at your own: Oia is the most visited village in Santorini and the second largest after Fira, the island's capital town. Oia lies in the northern part of the caldera, 12 km away from Fira. The village is situated above an impressive cliff overlooking the volcano and the island of Thirassia.
- At 4:00pm meet your guide and local assistant and head to Firostefani
- Next stop Megalochori village : When you visit Megalochori, you'll be experiencing the heart of Santorini – an old traditional village of white churches, pirate hideaways, stunning hotels, wonderful Aegean sea views, and narrow streets and alleys. A true hidden gem
- After Megalochori , walking tour to Thira city center .
- Early dinner at your own in Fira center .
- Return transfer to your Hotel
- Overnight at Hotel Secret View 5* in Oia

Day 8 – September 9th, 2024

Full Day All Time Classic Santorini to Akrotiri Excavations, Red Beach, Wine tasting & Lunch, Black Beach, Pyrgos, Profet Elias Monastery, Sunset cocktail

(7-8hrs Guided tour, Wine tasting, Lunch)



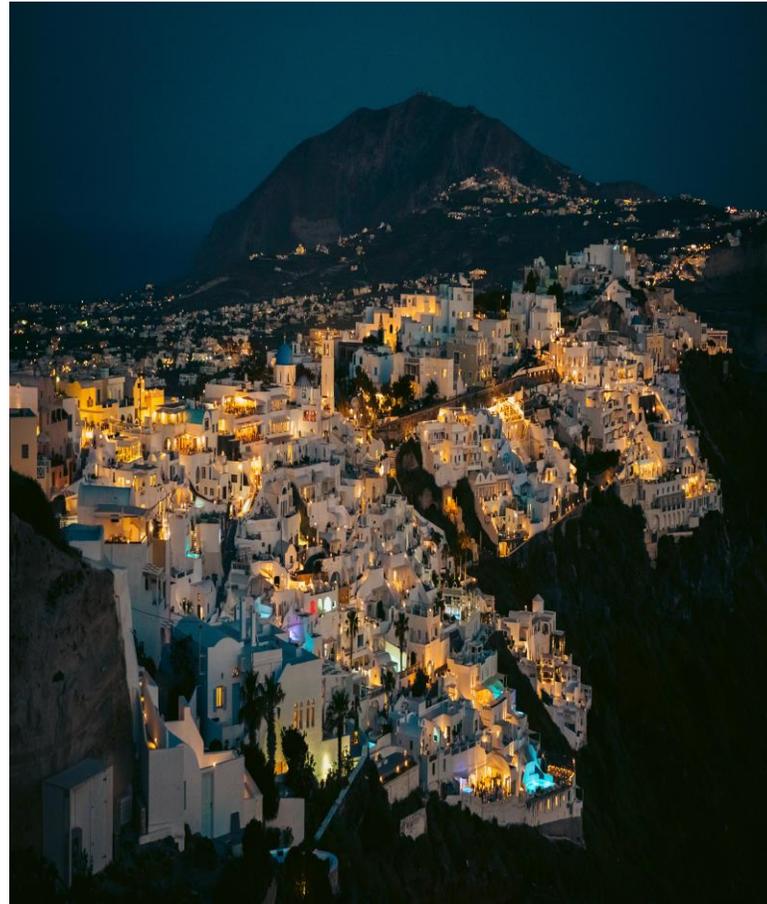
- After breakfast meet your driver and guide at approx. 8.30-9.00am at your hotel's entrance.
- Visit and experience the great eruption, one of the biggest events of the prehistoric Mediterranean! You are guided to the prehistoric town that inspired the Lost Atlantis myth. This town was buried under the volcanic ash after the huge volcano eruption of 1612 BC that destroyed the Minoan civilization.
- A beach like no other, the Red Beach: a scenery reminding Mars on earth, right by the sea.
- Enjoy your journey to the world of Santorinian wine with one more tasting of seductive local wine varieties. The wine varieties guide you to the unique micro-climate of Santorini and its mark on the island's most famous product. The 4 exquisite local wines of this tasting come perfectly paired with a 4-course lunch.
- After this, you take a refreshing break in your day by the black beach of Santorini.
- Pyrgos, the oldest village on the island built on a hill with panoramic views of Santorini, comes next! Postcard-inspiring neighborhoods, with whitewashed houses and colorful flowers carry you away in past decades, while you enjoy views of the entire island.
- Your next stop is Prophet Elias, the highest point of Santorini with spectacular, panoramic views of the only habitable Caldera in the world and its surroundings, just the perfect location for pictures.
- The best end to the excursion you could wish for: breathtaking Sunset views upon drinking a cocktail inspired from Santorini.
- Overnight at Hotel Secret View 5* in Oia

Day 9 – September 10th, 2024

Morning 3hours Cruise by Traditional Boat with Volcano visit

Sunset Cheers & Dine

(7-8hrs Guided tour, Wine tasting, Farewell Dinner & Drinks)



- After breakfast at your hotel, meet your driver & guide at hotel's entrance
- After only 15 minutes cruise, we'll be arriving at the Volcano Bay, where we'll be docking for about 1 hour and 30 minutes, during which, if you want, you can follow the path to the top where active craters are.
- Next, we'll be moving to the island of Palea Kameni for the hot springs, the famous mud baths, which were formed as result of volcanic eruptions.
- In the small bay of Agios Nikolaos the water temperature ranges from 30 to 35 degrees Celsius, as it mixes continuously with the normal sea currents. The boat will be staying here about 30 minutes to allow you a healthy bath. After the bath, you will return to the starting point.
- Return to your hotel have lunch on your own or relax.
- Get ready for your evening activity.
- Your tour starts with a picturesque journey to the past, with whitewashed and stone buildings and vivid colors! You will walk among the traditional mansions of Megalochori Village, exploring it's Cycladic alleys and you will admire the local architecture of the past.
- Your journey to the world of Santorinian wine goes on as you delve into the secrets of wine making in a one-of-a-kind "labyrinth" wine museum. Taste local wines and learn about one of Santorini's signature products – it all takes place in a unique, underground cave (8 meters under the earth surface!)
- The last, memorable touch to your tour: a dinner at an Ocean Fusion restaurant with mesmerizing Caldera views accompanied with ultimate Cocktail.
- Overnight at Hotel Secret View 5* in Oia

Day 10 – September 11th, 2024

- Departure from Santorini and Greece After last breakfast in your hotel, prepare for check out. Meet your driver at your hotel's entrance and transfer to Santorini International Airport for your homebound flight via Athens.

Your Tour Hosts: Laura and Francois Roy

Laura Ranieri Roy is an Egyptologist and Classicist (MA University of Toronto, 2016), writer, storyteller, history teacher and founder-director of Ancient Egypt Alive and Ancient Worlds Alive. She has excavated in Egypt at the site of Amarna and South Asasif - and at a classical Greek site in Bulgaria. Laura is also a writer and tour leader who creates and personally guides history-focused, in-depth tours to Egypt each year. (She entered University with a scholarship in Latin and Greek/Classical Studies – her first love!) www.ancientegyptalive.com

Francois Roy is also an Egyptologist and Classical History Expert who graduated with an MA in Near and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Toronto in 2008. He also holds an Honours BA degree in Modern European and Military history from the University of Alberta. A true all-history expert, he brings a deep background in classical and modern European history and has an encyclopedic knowledge of great events through the march of time. Francois has excavated in Campania, Italy at the 6th Century BCE site of Roccagloriosa, near the ancient site of Buxentum (600 BCE to 200 BCE), and at the 25th Dynasty site of South Asasif, west bank Luxor, Egypt.

Monday, September 2, 2024 – Wednesday, September 11, 2024

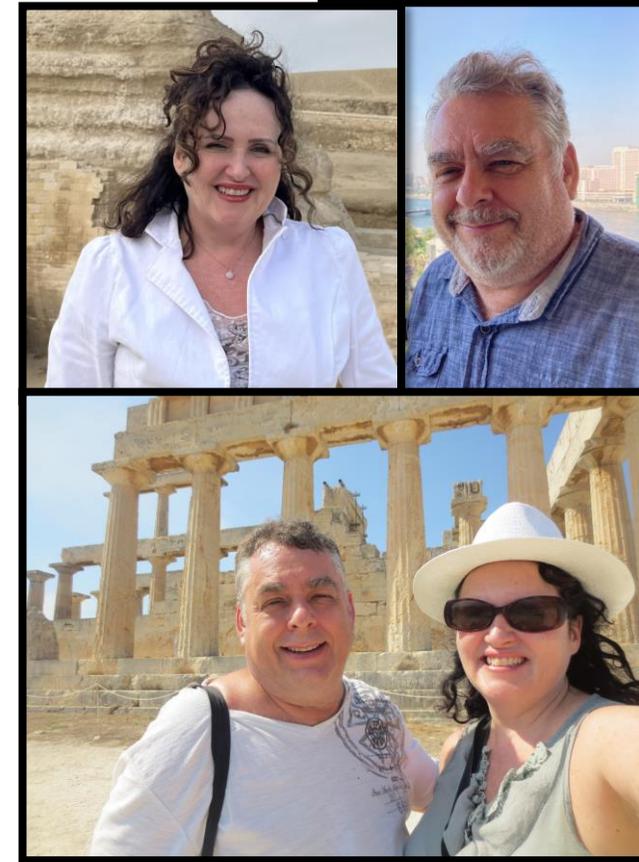
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Space is Limited – Book your Minoan Odyssey Tour now!

Contact: info@ancientegyptalive.com

Book with Liz King at First in Service Travel: liz@F1S.com

or telephone: 416-473-1484 (Just \$250 USD deposit to secure your space.)



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